

# NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD GAY CAUCUS NEWSLETTER

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## GAY RIGHTS SUMMER PROJECT

The first Gay Rights Summer Project of the National Lawyers Guild, in Los Angeles, has just ended. The Project consisted of four student participants. They were Marilyn Hedges (Hastings College of Law, S.F.), Darryl Kitagawa (future applicant to the People's College of Law, L.A.), John Sanchez (U.C. Berkeley - Boalt Hall), and Claudio Frias (Rutgers Law School, Newark, N.J.). The four project members were assisted by Los Angeles attorneys Al Gordon and Tom Coleman.

The Project had three main areas of work: Legal, Community Involvement and Political Work/Education. In the area of legal work the Project concentrated on issues of importance to the Gay community in Los Angeles. These were: the jail Work-Furlough Program, which presently excludes all Gays from participation; the Certification for publication of appellate cases on Gay issues (such cases have tended not to be published in the past); and the area of public accommodation (in which Barney's Beanery, a local restaurant and Studio One, a discotheque, were monitored for sexist and racist discrimination.)

Legal work was also done in the area of Lesbian Mothers' child custody, Artificial Insemination and its importance for Gays, and the possibility of taking a separation of a Gay couple to Family Court in order to insure the family law benefits in the disposition of property and other related matters.

Project members visited and were in working contact with gay groups, persons and movements in the L.A. area. They also conducted a weekly study group, in which progressive literature (Gay and non-Gay) was read and analyzed.

Despite a few minor problems, the Project was considered by all to be a success. Legally and politically, a great deal of work has yet to be accomplished, of course. The Project had a good start; considerable evaluation and input will be necessary for the planning of future projects. With the plethora of problems facing the Gay community, careful discussion and analysis will permit even greater gains to be realized by future projects. ▲